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ABSTRACT

The Wright State University International Student Exchange Program is described. This school's approach to studen exchange programs immerses students in the daily life of countries in Asia and South America at minimal cost to the participating institutions. Through exchange agreements with universities in Japan, Brazil, and China, students get 4 weeks of life and study in a non-Western nation. From 15 to 20 of the best students are chosen a year in advance for each country. Through this program, over 200 students have travelled abroad and over 300 foreign students have visited Wright State. Participants must complete a required langauge course and a cultural preparation course before going. The host university offers 2 weeks of intensive language and cultural study and related field trips. Students live with native families for the second 2 weeks and are immersed in daily life. The last 3 days are spent in the country's largest city without any host assistance. Concurrently, host institution students participate in a similar program at Wright State. Students who participate are called Student Ambassadors and are prompted to see themselves as representatives of their country and educational institution. The program is evaluated annually by participating students and American host families. Statistics on the program, a copy of an article about the program, and a Wright State University newsletter describing the program are appended. (SM)

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AASCU/ERIC Model Programs Inventory Project

Wright State University

International Student Exchange Program

Division of Student Affairs

WRIGHT STATE

Wright State University
Dayton, Ohio

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AASCU/ERIC Model Programs Inventory Project

The AASCU/ERIC Model Programs Inventory is a two-year project seeking to establish and test a model system for collecting and disseminating information on model programs at AASCU-member institutions--375 of the public four-year colleges and universities in the United States.

The four objectives of the project are:

- To increase the information on model programs available to all institutions through the ERIC system
- To encourage the use of the ERIC system by AASCU institutions
- To improve AASCU's ability to know about, and share information on, activities at member institutions, and
- To test a model for collaboration with ERIC that other national organizations might adopt.

The AASCU/ERIC Model Programs Inventory Project is funded with a grant from the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education to the American Association of State Colleges and Universities, in collaboration with the ERIC Clearinghouse on Higher Education at The George Washington University.

AASCU/ERIC Model Programs Inventory Project

Wright State University

International Student Exchange Program

Submitted by:

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February 24, 1989

AASCU/ERIC Model Programs Inventory Project

Wright State University

International Student Exchange Program

Abstract

Wright State University has developed a new approach to student exchange programs which, at minimal cost to the participating institutions, immerses students in the daily life of countries in Asia and South America. Through exchange agreements with universities in Japan, Brazil, and China, Wright State University offers students four weeks of life and study in a non-Western nation, at a price they can afford.

15-20 of the best students--selected from all majors on the basis of grade point averages--are chosen a year in advance for each country. Students are then assisted to obtain student employment positions on the campus. Their earnings are retained in escrow accounts from September to June, which covers all costs of the summer program, including $500 per student program fee paid to the host university to defray costs. In addition, without paying additional tuition, full-time students may earn up to 12 credit hours for university courses in several disciplines.

Participants must complete a required language course and a cultural preparation course before going. The host university offers two weeks of intensive language and cultural study and related field trips. Living with native families for the second two weeks, students are immersed in daily life. The last three days are spent in the country's largest city, without any host assistance. Concurrently, host institution students participate in a similar program at Wright State University during the same month.

Introduction

Leaders in the 21st Century must possess keen insight into the diverse cultures outside the West. But few American universities can offer more than a theoretical glimpse into the life of a developing nation or communist country. Urban commuter students are doubly constrained by time and money from studying outside the U.S.

What began ten years ago as a signed agreement between Wright State University and a university in Japan has grown into an extensive exchange program not only with Japan but with Brazil and China as well. The interest and awareness within the university community in the cultures of these specific countries has risen proportionately with student participation. Over 200 students have travelled abroad and over 300 foreign university students have visited the Wright State campus through participation in the international exchange program.

The following pages include the "work incentive concept"; the selection of students and faculty/staff; independent studies for credit; model for on campus activities both here and abroad; students' self image as Ambassadors; the Ambassador Club; and program evaluation.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAM

The International Student Exchange Program began in 1979 with a signed agreement between Okayama University of Science in Japan and Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio. Twenty students were to be exchanged each year during the month of July. Since Wright State University is a commuter campus where most of the students attend because of the price advantage of living at home, for three years this program could not recruit a sufficient number of students financially able to implement the exchange. The Japanese students came to Wright State University, but no students went to Japan.

Finally, in 1982, the work incentive concept was designed and the success of the program has been assured. The concept briefly is:

In late April all advanced level full-time students (sophomore through graduate and medical school) with accumulative grade point averages of over 3.0 receive a letter in their on-campus mailboxes to consider the international exchange program. Students who are interested complete an application and are interviewed by a team of past students, a faculty member, and the Coordinator of the International Exchange Program. In 1983 there were 50 applicants for the twenty positions in the Japan program, and the mean g.p.a. of the selected students was 3.56 and represented 15 different academic majors. After their selection in May, the students are assisted by the Office of Student Employment to find a campus student job to begin in September (no new jobs are created for this program). The Accounting Office sets up an escrow account for each student and the student works 20 hours per week from September to June receiving only the payroll stub every two weeks showing how

much has been accumulated in his account. The students accumulate enough money to pay for their entire trip including all accommodations and each pays $500 to the host University for their room/board and cultural experiences.

The selected students are required to attend a culture exploration program which meets once a month from September to June to expose the students to various aspects of the country to be visited. Programs include geography, history, economics, food and courtesies, etc. These classes are taught by volunteer faculty and experts in the community. The last meeting is a reception at the President's home for the students and their parents. An additional reason for this aspect of the program is to enable the students to get to know each other and to develop a camaraderie to further enhance their experience.

Faculty and staff support, exclusive of the program coordinator, is voluntary; therefore, minimal university funds are used for the program. In fiscal year 1988-89 the university budget is $37,973 which supports the staffing for the program, the orientation program for the students, all promotion, and travel expenses for one advisor to each country.

The month exchange itself is extra curricular, thereby keeping it free from the constraints of the academic review process yet utilizing the faculty in all aspects of the program.

Students may earn up to 12 credit hours in the regular university departments of religion, geography, sociology, or communication. These courses are independent study opportunities designed for each student. Students register during the quarter before they leave, meet the professor and develop the readings and organize the research which they will do while in the

foreign country. Upon their return, they write a paper which is submitted for grading. Because our university permits students to register for 12-18 credit hours for the full-time tuition charge, the registration for these courses do not cost the full-time student additional tuition dollars.

All students in the program are also required to take at least one introductory level course in the language of the country to be visit, viz., Japanese, Portuguese, or Chinese. These courses are offered at Wright State University in the spring just prior to leaving.

Wright State University has designed the model of the program of study to be used by each country in the exchange. The program coordinator at Wright State University assists each country to develop the academic/cultural program according to the following model:

The students spend two weeks at the host university in an academic program which includes a morning program of one hour of situational language of the country and one and one-half hours of instruction on various aspects of the culture of the country such as government, health, education and welfare, arts, religion, geography, economics, etc. The morning program is followed by a field trip in the afternoon to a location which is directly appropriate to the morning lecture; for example, a morning session on government with a field trip to the municipal buildings and a brief meeting with the mayor. The evenings are spent in social and recreational programs such as athletic events, traditional dances, festivals, etc. The next two weeks are spent living with host families. The student is immersed in the family culture and each student has a different set of experiences. The final three days are spent in one of the major cities of the country such as Rio de Janeiro,

without the assistance from the host university. The students stay in a hotel together but are completely free to see the city as they wish without the constraints of a planned itinerary. The total experience is designed to take the students from little knowledge of people and culture to sufficient knowledge to survive in the country.

The exchange is reciprocated with twenty students from the foreign country spending one summer month in the Wright State University program. These students (all of whom have paid $500 for their university stay) are housed on the campus for two weeks and are with host families for two weeks. The two week academic program is the same type of program which our students have in their host country.

Students who participate in the program are called Student Ambassadors. We encourage the students to see themselves as representatives of our country and our educational institution to the country to which they travel. Their behavior reflects the attitudes other peoples will have toward Americans in general and Wright State University students specifically. This is a challenge to the students and one to which they respond well. Also during the program students are provided many opportunities to be in leadership roles and are expected to give remarks, make presentations, and be responsible for group logistics.

An Ambassador Club was created to enhance the foreign experience, to assist in continuing a tradition, and to pass down information to the students participating the following year. The club is active in promoting the program, in recruiting students, in hosting foreign students, and in carrying out cultural activities through which students can share their international experiences.

This program was originally designed so that a student who attends Wright State University could experience a study in culture of a different country in each of his/her four years at the university. To fulfill this purpose, a fourth country may be added to our existing three-partner university exchanges with Japan, Brazil, and China.

University faculty and staff personnel play an important role in the program. Besides working with the culture exploration program, these two advisers (one faculty member and one student affairs administrator) accompany each group of students when they travel abroad. These administrators are selected on the basis of their volunteer work in the program. Faculty and staff volunteer their time and expertise by teaching a class to the visiting students in the exchange, by coordinating the academic aspect of the program for visiting students, or by hosting visiting faculty or students.

The success of this program has led to the development of an international co-op six month work experience program with Japan which began in 1983. The students work in Japan on a six month work experience of teaching English as a second language. We have since developed exchanges with Dayton area junior high and high schools with schools in Japan which are attached to our partner university in Okayama. The public relations value of these developments to the university are tremendous and have enhanced the image of the university with area schools and with the community at large.

The program is evaluated annually by those students who participate in the program and by those families who host foreign students. Monthly orientation meetings are evaluated by participating advisers, and the program coordinator submits monthly and annual reports to the Assistant Vice-President for Student Life and to the Vice-President for Student Affairs.

APPENDICES

INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM

	AMBASSADOR PROGRAM				FACULTY EXCHANGE		STUDENT CO-OP
	at WSU			ABROAD	at WSU	ABROAD	ABROAD
	Foreign Students/Advisors			WSU Students/ Advisors			
	College	High School	Junior High*				
JAPAN							
1980	31/2					1	
1981	25/3				2	2	
1982	25/2		64/5		2	3	
1983	25/2		52/4	17/2	5	4	
1984	18/2		50/6	21/2	2	5	3
1985	25/3		74/5	16/2	2	5	4
1986	25/2	31/2	96/5	14/2	2	4	4
1987	25/2	21/2	102/6	26/2	6	2	4
1988	26/2	27/2	108/7	12/2	2	2	3
TOTAL	225/20	79/6	546/38	106/12	23	28	18
BRAZIL							
1984	17/2			17/2			
1985	16/1			15/2			
1986	20/2			16/2			
1987	25/2			23/2			
1988	20/2			4/1	1	1	
TOTAL	98/9			75/9	1	1	
CHINA							
1984						1	
1985					2	2	
1986				12/2	4	0	
1987				31/2	1	0	
1988				7/2	4	1	
TOTAL				50/6	11	4	

* Over 50 junior high school students from the Dayton area completed the exchange by visiting Japan in 1988.

G. Theodore Mitau Award Recipient, 1984

International Student Exchange Program

Wright State University

Contact: Elenore Koch, Vice President
for Student Affairs
Wright State University
Dayton, OH 45435

Seventeen Wright State University students working at on-campus jobs receive no paychecks, but instead of being outraged, they are excited. The students have been selected as Wright State ambassadors to the Okayama University of Science in Japan, and under an innovative financing arrangement their wages are being set aside to fund a month-long trip to Japan next summer.

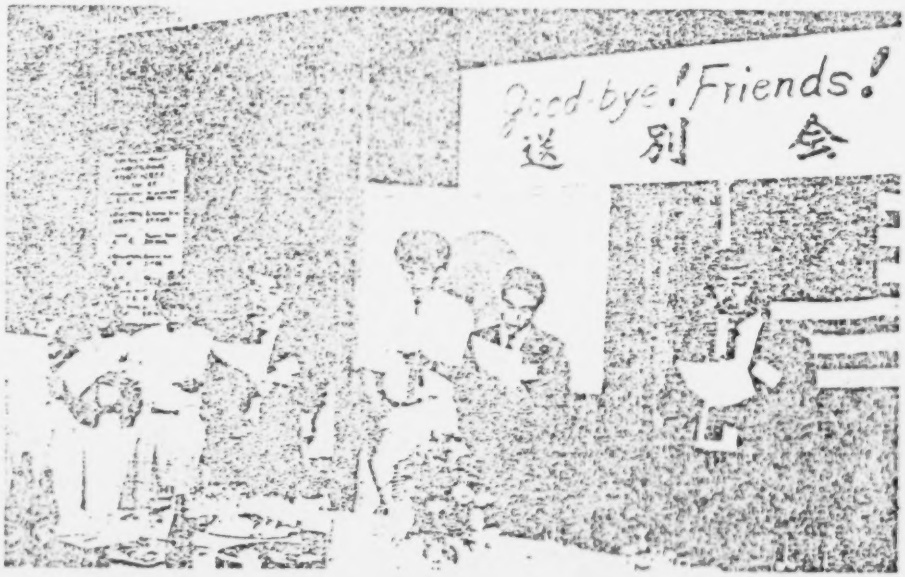
Tim Donofrio, an international studies major, is working his way to Japan by teaching swimming at Wright State. He hopes the experience as a student ambassador will be valuable preparation for a future in the foreign service. Donofrio says he welcomes the opportunity "to learn what you can't learn from books alone. Travelling and actually seeing the country will teach me more than courses in Asian culture and history."

In 1979, Wright State signed an exchange agreement with Okayama University in Japan under which 20 students were to be exchanged each year. For three years the Japanese students came to Wright State University, but no Wright State students went to Japan. The financial obstacles to participation were too great for students at a commuter campus until Wright State designed the work incentive concept that now ensures the program's success.

Wright State University developed a new approach to financing student exchange programs, which, at no cost to the participating institutions, offers students four weeks of life and study in a non-Western nation, at a price they can afford.

Each year 20 of the best students selected from all majors on the basis of interest and grade point average, are chosen one year in advance to participate in the program. Students are then helped to obtain employment on campus. Participants work 20 hours per week, and their earnings are retained in an escrow account set up by the Accounting Office. From September to June, they receive only the payroll stub showing how much money has accumulated in the account. By the end of the school year, students will have earned enough to pay for their entire trip, including all accommodations, airfare, academic fees, and incidental costs for the stay in the host country.

The selected students attend a culture exploration program at Wright State meeting once a month from September to June to learn about various aspects of the country to be visited. Programs cover geography,



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history, economics, food, and local customs. These classes are taught by volunteer faculty or experts from the community. In addition, students must complete a language course in the academic term prior to their departure.

In July the students spend two weeks at the host university in an academic program that includes formal instruction in the morning in the language and various aspects of the culture of the country, followed by afternoon field trips relating to the subject of the morning class. For example, a morning class centering on Japanese religions would be followed by a visit to Shinto shrines and Buddhist temples.

The next two weeks are spent living with families in the host country. Students spend this time not in formal classes but immersing themselves in the family culture. The final three days are spent in a major city of the host country, where the students are free to explore the city without the assistance of guides or advisors. The total experience is designed to "provide students with a broader culture perspective," claims Dr. Elenore Koch, director of Wright State's exchange program. She stresses that such experiences help students forge bonds of understanding which will last throughout their lives.

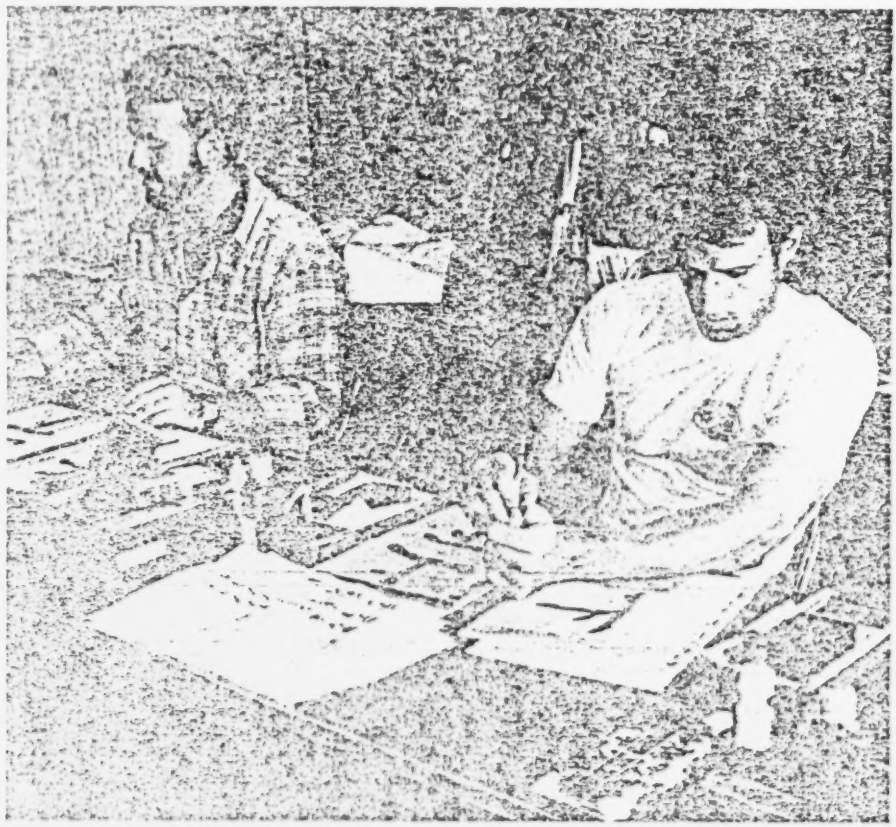
Students participating in the exchange earn up to 12 credit hours in religion, geography, sociology, or communications—courses that have been specially designed for the program. Students register during the quarter before they leave, meet the professor to develop the readings and organize the research they will do while in the foreign country. Upon their return, they write a paper, which is submitted for credit. Because Wright State permits students to register for up to six credit hours beyond the cost of full-time tuition, the registration for these courses does not cost the student any additional tuition dollars.

Besides the innovative funding concept that underlies the program, several organizational elements of Wright State University's International Student Exchange Program are impressive as well.

For example, all faculty and staff support is voluntary; therefore, no university funds are used for the program, thereby keeping it apart from university budget control and reductions. Moreover, the month exchange itself is extracurricular, and thus free from the constraints of the academic review process, at the same time that faculty are included in all aspects of the program. Finally, the advisors, one faculty member and one student affairs administrator, who accompany the students when they go abroad are selected on the basis of points they earn for their volunteer work in the program.

This program is interesting because it is expandable at Wright State and replicable on other college campuses. In addition to the exchange agreement with Japan, Wright State currently exchanges students with universities in Brazil as well. Dr. Koch notes that the university is completing student exchange arrangements with Egypt and beginning negotiations with Yugoslavia and the Soviet Union for additional expansion of the program. The International Student Exchange Program has been designed so that a student who attends Wright State University could study on a different continent each summer.

Clearly this year's G. Theodore Mitau Award winning program proves that limited budgets need not restrict ingenuity, that regional universities can be truly international in scope.



Perspectives

Wright State University

Winter 1988-89

WSU grad makes mark "following the leader"

by Wendy Winn

There's a bit of folklore, often repeated by mothers to their children, that advises using caution when pretending. What you pretend, the saying goes, may come true.

In one Wright State University graduate's case, the saying fits. Jim Baldridge, now the senior news anchor and reporter for Dayton's Channel 7, WHIO-TV, was once a small boy in Lima, Ohio, playing with the dictaphone his father brought home from work and pretending to be a sports reporter and newscaster. At the age of seven, then, this Channel 7 personality first decided to pursue a newsworthy career.

"I began by recording my broadcasts and playing it back," Baldridge said. "At age 12, I received my own tape recorder as a Christmas present. Then I became more serious, inventing my own sportscasts and newscasts, and listening to the tapes."

Baldridge also heeded what is now his station's slogan, "Follow the Leader." He grew up watching newscaster Don Wayne on WHIO and later spent 11 years working with him as a fellow television anchor. "I learned a lot from Don," Baldridge said. "He is a first-rate professional and a natural leader. I learned from him by following his good example."

Of course, Baldridge has done more than follow—ever since his childhood, he's channeled his energies toward achieving his goal. While in junior high school, he worked as a disc jockey for school dances. In high school, he became a member of a Junior Achievement radio company that produced a weekly half-hour show. "We'd sell commercials and operate the way a little company would," Baldridge said. "I went from announcer on the show to president of the company."

Baldridge would continue to pursue his goal after graduating from high school at the age of 16. "In my senior year, one of the [illegible] found the electives [illegible] history and foreign [illegible] particularly useful." As an [illegible] Baldridge [illegible] Dayton Daily News [illegible] Nicaragua. "Without having had Dr. Emilie Cannon's Spanish class, getting through customs and into the hotel would have been extremely difficult, if not impossible."

"I could be a professional student or a teacher so easily, because I love the academic experience and the atmosphere on campus," Baldridge said. He also admits to having a journalist's love of deadlines, which university courses are quite capable of supplying.

Later in life, he said, he might consider joining a network and working in a foreign country where he could pursue his language studies. But for now, Channel 7's leading newscaster isn't feeling boxed in. Looking about his office, where the walls are heavy with framed awards, Baldridge smiles as if on cue for the 11 p.m. broadcast. "Right now," he said, "this is exactly where I want to be."

WSU alumnus Jim Baldridge, on location at the Dayton Air Show.

Photo courtesy WHIO-TV

Journey takes students to Land of the Rising Sun

by Carol Sivahi

exchanging information about the similarities and differences in our countries. I have come to realize America and Japan are unique in own right, and both countries h to give each other. We are be close neighbors, and our peo key to friendship and goodw that our countries learn fro and capitalize on the best countries have to offer."

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WSU student/Pan American champion has Olympic experience

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